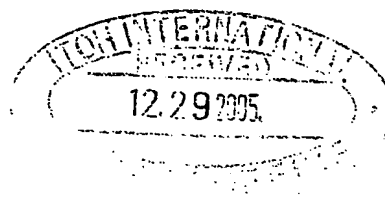


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY



To:
ITOH, Tadahiko

32nd Floor, Yebisu Garden Place
Tower, 20 -3, Ebisu
4-chome, Shibuya -ku, Tokyo
1506032 Japan

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43 bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	27.12.2005
-------------------------------------	------------

Applicant's or agent's file reference
R05208PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No. PCT/JP2005/020761	International filing date (day/month/year) 07.11.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 11.11.2004
--	--	--

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
Int.Cl. **H04N1/46** (2006. 01), **B41J2/525** (2006. 01), **G06T1/00** (2006. 01), **G06T5/00** (2006. 01), **H04N1/60** (2006. 01)

Applicant
RICOH COMPANY, LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Date of completion of this opinion		14.12.2005	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP		Authorized officer	
Japan Patent Office		Akira Nakama	
3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915; Japan		Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3571	

5V 3568

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/020761

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

 - b. format of material
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form

 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/020761

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis 1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	None	YES
	Claims	1-15	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	None	YES
	Claims	1-15	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims	None	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP 9-214789 A (Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.) 15 Aug 1997 (15.08.97),
claim 1, 3, Fig. 2 (Family: none)

Document 2: JP 4-204567 A (Canon Inc.) 24 Jul 1992 (24.07.92),
claim 4, column 14, lines 10 to 13, Fig. 8
& US 5162860 A, 10 Nov 1992 (10.11.92),
& EP 488412 A, 3 Jun 1992 (03.06.92)

The subject matter of claim 1-15 does not appear to be novel or involve an inventive step in view of the Document 1 (see claim 1, 3, Fig. 2) or Document 2 (see claim 4, column 14, lines 10 to 13, Fig. 8) cited in the ISR.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/020761

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

The relative term "the glossiness of the black realized in the image formed on the glossy recording medium does not become substantially lower than glossiness of the glossy recording medium", used in claims 4,11 is vague and unclear, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claims unclear (Article 6 PCT).